

## **Light Rail Rapid Transport by Cr Susie Douglas**

The Light Rail Rapid Transport system was first mooted ten years ago.

Since then Surfers Paradise has transformed from a traffic clogged “place to be avoided” to a thoroughly comfortable and scenic route for residents and visitors. Public transport has improved markedly with buses using dedicated lanes, with modern bus stops and regular timetables. There has been a dramatic decrease in traffic congestion with the completion of the Surfers Paradise Traffic Management Scheme. Surfers Boulevard has evolved into a tree lined shopping and dining precinct.

Now ten years after planners put forward their light rail plan we are being told that all of these improvements and transport solutions have been in vain. The trees along the Gold Coast Highway and the Boulevard will be ripped out to widen roads and pavement. Overhead wires will mar the landscape and major changes to road and intersections will occur. I believe many buildings will have to be resumed to accommodate double tracks, parklands will be encroached upon and traffic will come to a halt. This will be anything but rapid!

Paradise Waters residents will transform from “exclusive waterfront” to “exclusive rail front”.

We must fight this totally outdated transport plan.

If the Government are keen to ease traffic congestion more buses should be allocated to the central route of Ferry Rd, Bundall Rd and Bermuda Street.

Thankyou to Major General Kevin Cooke for standing up for the residents of Surfers Paradise.

**Cr Susie Douglas Gold Coast City Council**